Claims

1. Locking device having:

- at least one first segment,

- at least one second segment situated so as to be capable of being moved relative to the first segment,

- at least one first segment and at least one second segment being capable of assuming at least one first and at least one second position relative to one another,

- and at least one segment having at least one indicator area that can be substantially permanently modified in at least one physically perceivable property,

characterized in that

a movement that is required in order to open and/or close the locking device immediately moves the position of at least one first segment relative to at least one second segment at least temporarily from the first position into the second position, and effects the modification of the physically perceivable property.

2. Device as recited in Claim 1,

characterized in that

the physically perceivable property is chosen from a group including, in particular but not exclusively, color, transparency, reflectivity, and brightness.

3. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,

characterized in that

at least two substantially rigid locking components are provided that are capable of being moved relative to one another.

4. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,

characterized in that

the at least two locking components are connected via at least one connecting device so as to be capable of being moved relative to one another.

5. Device, in particular as recited in one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
the at least two locking components have shapes selected from a group that includes, in particular but not exclusively, cylindrical, spherical, conical, elliptical, annular, and cubical shapes.

6. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
the at least two locking components are realized as at least one outer and at least one inner cap.

7. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one inner cap is positioned at least partly inside at least one outer cap, preferably substantially concentrically.

8. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one outer cap has at least one transparent segment that is situated in such a way that at least a segment of at least one inner cap is visible through it.

9. Device, in particular as recited in one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one inner cap has at least one first locking engagement device, such as, in particular but not exclusively, threadings, fitted rings and/or flange rings and/or sealing rings, permitting a detachable engagement between the inner cap and at least one correspondingly matched second locking engagement device on the locked object.

10. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
on at least one outer and/or inner cap there is provided at least one guide device, such as, in particular but not exclusively, a collar, a rail, a ring, or the like, in such a way that at least one outer cap and at least one inner cap can be moved substantially only along a preferred direction towards one another.

11. Device, in particular as recited in one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
on at least one of the at least two locking components there is provided at least one snap device that, after the moving of at least one first segment into the second position relative to at least one second segment, fixes the two locking components substantially in relation to one another, in particular through the action of a non-positive and/or positive connection or of a resistance that is to be overcome.

12. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
the movable situation of the at least two locking components takes place in such a way that relative movements between these two locking components are enabled that are selected from a group including radial rotation, axial and lateral displacement, lateral deformation, and axial tilting with respect to the common geometrical longitudinal axis of the locking components.

13. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one first segment is provided at least partially with a colored layer that can be at least partially removed through mechanical action, and at least one second segment has at least one shaving device that acts at least at a point in time during the movement into the second position and that acts at least partly mechanically on the colored layer.

14. Device, in particular as recited in one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one first segment has a different color underneath its colored layer.

15. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one first segment is provided underneath its colored layer with images, signs, logos, inscriptions, or combinations thereof.

16. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
for the at least one shaving device, shapes are provided that are selected from a group including bar shapes, helical shapes, star shapes, spiral shapes, and/or annular shapes.

17. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
on at least one first segment there is provided at least one device that is capable of being turned in relation to an substantially outward-facing side of the locking device, said turnable device having at least one first and at least one second side, the sides differing from one another in at least one physically perceivable property.

18. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
the at least one turnable device is connected to at least one first and at least one second segment, and, at least at a point in time during the movement from the first into the second position relative to one another, substantially the respective other side of the turnable device faces an substantially outward-facing side of the locking device.

19. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one second segment has at least one turning device that, at least at a point in time during the movement into the second position, acts at least partly mechanically on at least one turnable device in such a way that substantially the respective other side of the turnable device faces an substantially outward-facing side of the locking device.

20. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
shapes are provided for the turning devices that are selected from a group including bar shapes, star shapes, and/or annular shapes.

21. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one side of at least one turnable device is provided with images, signs, logos, inscriptions, or combinations thereof.

22. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one first segment has at least one indicator area made of a material that, given a predetermined action, changes in at least one of its physically perceivable properties, and at least one second segment has at least one acting device that acts at least partially in a predetermined manner on the indicator area at least at a point in time during the movement into the second position.

23. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
the action of the acting device is a mechanical action, thermal action, chemical action, electrostatic action, and/or some combination of these.

24. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
at least one first segment has at least one gas-sensitive indicator area made of a material that changes at least one of its physically perceivable properties under the influence of at least one reaction gas, preferably one contained in the atmosphere such as, in particular but not exclusively, oxygen.

25. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
in the first position, the gas-sensitive indicator area is limited in substantially gas-tight fashion against its surrounding environment, and has no contact with the reaction gas.

26. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
in the second position, the gas-tight limiting of the gas-sensitive indicator area against its surrounding environment is removed, and the indicator area comes at least partly into contact with a part of the reaction gas present in its surrounding environment.

27. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
a safety device is provided that prevents an unintentional moving of a segment into the second position, through, in particular but not exclusively, a non-positive and/or positive securing, a resistance that is to be overcome, or a predetermined breaking point.

28. Device, in particular as recited in at least one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
a fixing device is provided that brings about a rigidifying of at least one first segment, or of at least one segment in the second position, through, in particular but not exclusively, the action of a non-positive and/or positive connection, or of a resistance that is to be overcome.